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T A P A P E R

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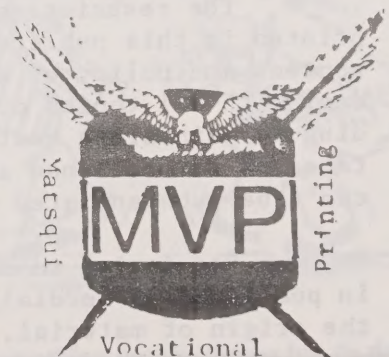
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gave so generously
of their time and
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very special thanks!

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The name "Tarpaper" is derived from convict jargon and is meant to express dissatisfaction with a person, place, or thing. Since the editors have never met a satisfied convict, it seems appropriate for this magazine to bear this title.

Tarpaper is published bi-monthly by the convicts of Matsqui Federal Institution. Only opinions expressed on the editorial pages are the opinions of the editorial staff. Other opinions are the view of the particular authors. The contents of the Tarpaper do not necessarily conform to the official views of either the Administration of Matsqui or the Solicitor General's Department.

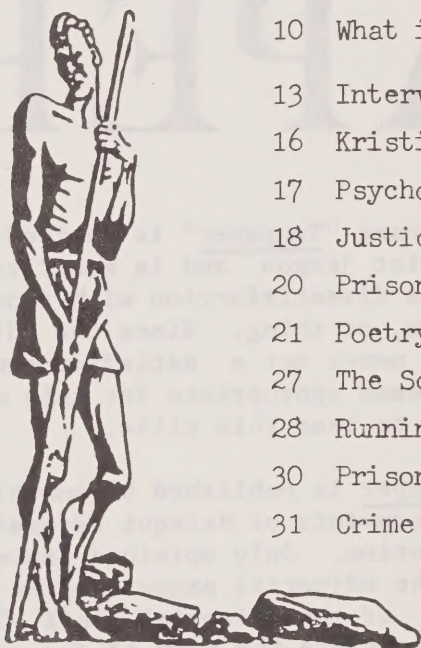


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The restrictions imposed, by the Administration, on the material printed in this publication are similar to those governing the editorial content and policy of any "free" publication. We are at liberty to deal with all topics of interest and concern to the imprisoned, providing we maintain a healthy respect for the truth, be guided by the dictates of common sense and avoid the pitfalls of making statements that can't be substantiated with concrete proof.

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From the Editor's Pen

There has been a lot of 'rapping' going on here at Matsqui Institution regarding conjugal visits lately. In our last issue of Tarpaper, we printed an essay of sorts on this subject.

We all realize that there are many pros and cons on such a delicate subject. And, it is delicate, as the only people who are willing to comment on conjugal visits are prisoners. Others who hear about them either ignore it completely or try to pass it off. The reason for this is probably because when we get right down to the 'nitty-gritty' of the whole issue of conjugal visits, it means SEX in prisons.

Unfortunately, sex is still looked upon by many as being obscene and related to pornography. And when we, the prisoners start talking about having sex in our penal system, society will undoubtedly start to protest profoundly. People must be made to realize that sex is not 'dirty', it is a part of our being. Our arms, legs and minds etc. are not taken away from us when we are imprisoned. So why then should sex be taken away from us?

Sex, however, is not a human need in as much as it is a human desire. We don't need sex to survive as we need food or water. But, we are human beings and our desires are the same as they were before being incarcerated, and we differ no more than the people in society itself. One of the strongest desires of any human being is sex.

When we are imprisoned, we lose more than just our freedom. We are forced as prisoners, to give up a lot of ourselves. We try not to lose our dignity and self-respect, but sooner or later, we slowly lose even that. If we are to hold on to that, we can only do so by sharing our inner feelings with our loved ones. This can only be done by allowing a man and his woman to be alone to share their love with each other. And we all need love.

What is love without physical affection? We can only give so much mental affection and that is not enough. To love

someone is to be united as one. Which in turns means to be able to speak to that person, to be able to hold that person, and, to be able to make love to that person. Love is not only words, it is also physical. It is a part of one's life, and no one should ever have to lose such an important part of their lives.

Whether conjugal visits would be beneficial to the con or to the administration is of very little significance. What is important is that through conjugal visits two human beings will be able to find one another and allow them to share the greatest thing which two people can ever get to share and that, is themselves. Through all this they will then be able to function and relate to each other as well as to society. And in all probability, the prisoner would lose the hatred which has been built up inside him while behind the walls of a prison.

Hopefully, there will be more articles written about conjugal visits from all the prisons and also from the people on the 'outside' so that it might raise enough public interest. And one day soon, this dream of ours will turn into a reality. Thereby, upon a man's release from this penal system, he will be able to go back into society with a little love in his heart rather than a lot of hate.



Trying something new is always fun to do.

In Mississippi

Conjugal Visiting Is Almost Considered a Right

IN the past, Mississippi had little to boast about when it came to corrections. But there is one program where the state has always been a pioneer: conjugal visiting.

In other states, allowing prison inmates to visit with their wives or husbands in private quarters is a radical idea. Only California and New York have instituted conjugal visiting, and their programs are new. Mississippi, on the other hand, has allowed conjugal visiting on a broad scale since the turn of the century. It is not even controversial any more; no Mississippi politician has ever tried to make an issue of it.

On the first and third Sundays of each month, several hundred inmates at Parchman penitentiary are visited by their spouses. While their children play in the yard, husband and wife can wander off to a private room nearby and be alone together. No one will check up on them; no records are kept; no applications need be filled out.

Any married inmate at Parchman can have a conjugal visit every visiting day, unless he is being held in the Maximum Security Unit. Mississippi prisoners, unlike those in New York and California, do not have to do anything to "earn" the right to a visit, and do not have to achieve a particular custody status. Though prison officials maintain that the program is a privilege and not a right, the privilege is seldom taken away, even when an inmate is being punished in other ways for violations of prison rules.

Each of the 16 camps at Parchman has its own facilities for conjugal visiting. Most have separate buildings, nicknamed "red houses" or "tonks," that are used only on Sunday afternoons. Each red house has a number of little rooms. Furnishings range from spartan — a colored light bulb and a provocative drawing on the wall — to motel-like, with air conditioning and rugs. Sometimes a curtained cell is used. The prison provides the bed linen.

Inmates maintain the red houses, and they manage the program themselves. They determine informally, according to the number of visitors, how long each couple can spend together. "We don't get no trouble," said one guard. "If somebody causes trouble, he's got to live with the rest of 'em for the week."

"There are very few problems," says Parchman Warden Steve Hargett. "It's just something we've gotten used to."

Asked if drugs and contraband are sometimes brought in during conjugal visits, Hargett replied, "Sure. On visiting day we get 650 to 750 automobiles coming in here. There's no way to search them all."

Mississippi's overall visiting procedures are among the most informal and liberal in the nation. Every other Sunday hundreds of children and visitors mingle freely in the yards surrounding each camp. The visitors are searched only when officials have some special reason to believe they are carrying contraband. Guards watch them with only one eye while they are at the camps. One reason for this is that if inmates want to try to escape, they don't need any help from visitors; Parchman is so isolated that there has never been much need for strong perimeter security.

As for conjugal visiting, officials have no qualms about it. "It's a good morale builder," said Hargett. "It's one reason we've never had a riot here."

Prison officials believe the program may reduce tension and homosexuality. But the major reason conjugal visiting is supported is that it helps keep marriages together. And a stable marriage, it is often said, is the most powerful factor in keeping a convict out of trouble when he is released.

In order to have a conjugal visit, inmates must show proof of marriage. But a marriage, at least for male inmates, does not have to have been formally consecrated. A letter from a public official in a couple's home town is usually enough to establish a common-law marriage. Male inmates say that prison staff members have even on occasion been persuaded to look the other way while inmates visited in the red houses with girlfriends and prostitutes.

Women inmates say no such laxity is allowed them. They have only been allowed conjugal visits since 1972, when a Pullman railroad car (dubbed "Lady Champagne") was donated for their use. Now they use the individual rooms of the former motel that houses half of the women inmates. Those who live in the dormitory borrow a room from someone who is not using it. Female inmates are provided with birth control pills and devices by the prison. If husband and wife are both inmates, they can have conjugal visits at the women's camp.

A recent survey showed that 470 of the 1,800 male inmates at Parchman had wives

who visited them regularly. Of the 83 women inmates, 17 were receiving conjugal visits.

The chronicler of conjugal visiting in Mississippi is Columbus B. Hopper, a professor of sociology at the University of Mississippi. He began studying the program in the early 1960s, before it had been officially designated as a "program." He found that no one could remember a time when there had not been conjugal visiting at the penitentiary.

Conjugal visiting, Hopper found, had somewhat unsavory roots. It began as a concession to the myth that black inmates had voracious sexual appetites; sex was considered the best way to keep them calm and industrious. White inmates were later granted the same privileges, but conjugal visiting was still seen primarily as a way to keep blacks docile. "If you let a nigger have some on Sunday, he will really go out and do some work for you on Monday," a guard told Hopper in the 1960s.

Hopper, in the course of his study, had a hard time finding anyone in Mississippi, even among hard-nosed guards, who had any moral or other reservations about the program. "It just seems the natural thing to do," one guard told him recently. Perhaps because of the strong kinship ties of most Mississippians, the public has never objected.

A married inmate had high praise. "It sounds funny, but I didn't know my wife before I came to Parchman. I thought I did but I was too busy to talk to her and listen to her. It was [Alcoholics Anonymous] that taught me to listen and it was conjugal visiting that let me get to know my wife. I don't just love her now; I respect her."

Hopper did a survey in 1964 of 822 single inmates at Parchman and found that only ten percent were resentful because they were denied conjugal visits. In a recent follow-up series of interviews, he found this still to be true. In fact, single inmates often willingly babysit the children of married inmates while they are in the red houses.

A common objection to conjugal visiting from officials in other states is that it is degrading. Hopper rejects this argument. "It appears less degrading than visitation in prisons where inmates and their spouses furtively kiss in a crowded room while a guard's head is turned," he writes. He notes that the program has flourished in Mississippi, even though in recent years inmates have been permitted furloughs to their homes for as long as ten days. Four hundred inmates take advantage of the furlough program every year.

Parchman also has a separate program called "family visiting," where both spouses and other family members can spend as long as three days together. These longer visits do not take place in the red houses, but in two house-trailers and in a five-unit apartment building set aside for the purpose elsewhere in the penitentiary. The rooms in the trailers and apartments are simple, but unlike the red houses, they include kitchens and bathrooms. The family visiting area is unfenced, and there are playgrounds for children. "You almost forget you are in a prison," one woman inmate told Hopper. "You are cooking, preparing meals, putting your children to bed at night. . . . It made me feel like a complete woman again."

The United States is one of few nations in which sexual deprivation is an essential element of incarceration. Both of our neighbors, Canada and Mexico, allow conjugal visiting. In an international survey, Hopper found that it was allowed in many European countries, including Great Britain, West Germany, Sweden, Denmark and Belgium, and throughout Latin America and Asia. It is even allowed in a number of communist countries, including the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and Poland. "While one might argue that the Mississippi population is more liberal than the people in other states, this does not seem tenable," Hopper wrote. "Although most of them would not admit it, it is likely that correctional administrators in other states are less willing to adopt conjugal visits than are the publics which they serve."

NOTE: This article was sent to Tarpaper Magazine by - Ms. Cara Stewart of Victoria,

Many thanks for your interest and concern Cara and we look forward to more of the same. Ed.

THE BROKEN FAMILY

The author Marshall L. Zeidman is currently serving a three year federal sentence in the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Chicago, Illinois. The names of all the prisoners in this article have been changed.

Larry Rivers is a 32 year old federal prisoner serving a seven year sentence for gun law violations. He is in the 'camp' of the U.S. Penitentiary, formerly the Medical Center for Federal Prisoners at Springfield, Missouri. Six months after Larry 'went down' his wife filed for a divorce in his native Kentucky. When the divorce was final his wife and two small children disappeared from their home. Larry hasn't heard from them in over two years, and has no idea where they are.

Dr. Sam Allen, a 56 year old physician was convicted of medicaid fraud. He has been fighting his case through the various post-conviction relief procedures from his prison cell for over two years of his six year sentence. Shortly after beginning that sentence at the Federal Correctional Institution at Sandstone, Minnesota he suffered a severe heart attack and was transferred to the medical facility at the penitentiary at Springfield. He has had no word from his wife in over six months, and has learned from her family that she's undergoing psychiatric treatment at a Philadelphia clinic because she can't cope with the enforced separation. Dr. Allen has also been advised that she is contemplating a divorce.

Jim Clark recently celebrated his twenty-third birthday as a federal prisoner at the Federal Correctional Institution at Texarkana, Texas. He lived all his life in Flint, Michigan. His childhood sweetheart, to whom he was engaged when he was arrested has just broken their engagement to marry another man. Jim is extremely bitter. he asks if this is the price he must pay to society as part of his sentence. He's looking forward to an impending parole, but not to going back to his home town.

Jimmy Jones is 28, from the sophisticated 'New Town' section of Chicago's North Side. Less than three months after he began serving a three year sentence at the State-vill Penitentiary near Joliet, Illinois his young, pregnant wife abandoned their two children and disappeared. Jimmy's sister located the errant wife in California—living with another man. She has no intention of returning to her convict husband after his release. In all probability Jimmy will never see his new son. Shortly after the sister's contact with his wife she again disappeared. His widowed mother is caring for the two older children.

Everyone who was in the armed forces is familiar with the 'Dear John' letter. Service-related separations have always taken a certain toll in broken relationships, but the percentage increases dramatically when it's prison that causes the split.

Most of us inside eventually come to feel that it takes an exceptional partner to 'stick'. Sexual fidelity becomes outside the realm of hope. There are many options available to those 'outside', but to us inside, none. Some turn to homosexuality. Some to suicide. Most of us can only grit our teeth and hope our women form no permanent attachments.

Why are the results of incarceration so disastrous to male-female relationships? From the woman's point of view suddenly her man is gone. She must now fend for herself financially and emotionally. It's really not too much different from a situation of separation by death. Some feel a necessity to form a new attachment to replace the loss particularly in the event that the woman is unable to become self-sufficient financially. She hears stories of prison life that horrify and alienate her. Visits are frightening and frustrating. Little attempt is made in most prisons to make visits pleasant. Often the staff is antagonistic or indifferent toward visitors. Sometimes visitors have to wait for long periods of time for access to the prison, such as the over an hour average wait at the Chicago MCC. Visitors are sometimes subject to various indign-

ities before being admitted. Most visits are under various types of surveillance. The normal reaction to all this is unpleasant, and tends to discourage frequent visiting—even where permitted. Some simply can't take it. They 'give up' and begin new lives elsewhere, or with someone else who just happens to be THERE. Or they just disappear.

The end result is that which is and should be dreaded by the community. When the prisoner is finally free, of which will be some 99% now incarcerated, his only basis for stability and link with the community is gone. He will find it hard to get a job. He is given only a pittance by prison authorities upon his release—usually about enough to buy a 'Saturday-nite Special'. He will be alone, bitter, frustrated. He may find it all too easy—or from a practical point of view, the only alternative—to turn back to crime in order to eat.

There is no cureall or quickie solution. At this point, because of the public refusal to consider alternatives to prison, there are only stopgap measures. There can be no real change until the public realizes that prisoners' families and, yes, even convicts themselves are human beings.

The federal government, long the bottom of the ladder in prison reform, must take steps to insure that reform programs proceed, such as NOT INCARCERATING NON-VIOLENT OFFENDERS. There is no longer any reason for isolating people from the community who are no danger to it. Restitution, probation, parole and halfway-house facilities must be much more broadly utilized. A moratorium must be declared BY THE TAXPAYERS on new prison construction. When imprisonment is justified and society decides that it MUST isolate certain criminal individuals they could be allowed to serve their sentences at remote, overseas government installations, all over the world. The worse the crime, the more remote the installation. We even have a base at McMurrough Sound, Antarctica. And in all cases the offender's family would be allowed to accompany him to his assigned facility if they wished, and to live together in family housing units designed for prisoners at that installation.

Thus the family unit remains intact and the purposes of justice are served. The prisoner is isolated from society—punished as prescribed by law. The taxpayers are satisfied. But instead of being isolated in a grim, bleak prison cell he is thrust into an environment where rehabilitation becomes a reality, rather than the meaningless job it is now.

The prisoner would work and earn wages to support his family, make restitution when required and enable him to save enough money to assure a fresh start upon his release.

Prisons don't work. They may even do society more harm than good. The national recidivism rate is now somewhere over eighty percent and rising. Millions are earmarked by greedy, stupid bureaucrats for construction of new prisons; little for research into new rehabilitation techniques. Unless new solutions are found, the cost to the public will continue to rise to astronomical heights. It's up to you, the public, the taxpayers that pay for everything in the end, to make sure you get your money's worth. To make sure that programs are instituted to keep us on the inside—from returning here. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain by helping us to become useful, productive members of society, and perhaps the most important first step is to ensure that there are ways available to keep our families together while we spend our years paying an uncertain debt—to you.

Because this article was written in the States, does not mean that we here in the penal system in Canada do not also go through the same. Ed.

The Incarcerated Offender "Remedies not Problems"

THE FOUR DAY CONFERENCE FROM MARCH 27th-30th HELD AT HARRISON HOT SPRINGS HOTEL, B.C., FEATURED MANY PROMINENT PEOPLE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

Throughout the four days, discussions ranged and sometimes raged as to how best to cope with our prison population in the interests of inmates themselves and society as a whole.

Topics of paramount importance to the delegates were:

- 1) Prison size and construction programs;
- 2) Solitary confinement;
- 3) Transfer of prisoners from one institution to another;
- 4) Length of sentences;
- 5) Prisoners' Rights;
- 6) Native offenders;
- 7) Non-violent offenders;
- 8) Prison security classifications.

At the close of the conference several resolutions were put forward but none adopted.

In brief these resolutions called for the abolition of solitary confinement; consideration of placing some inmates now in maximum or medium security prisons, in isolated forestry camps; espousing a maximum five year sentence for any and all crimes; the appointment of an ombudsperson in every institution; and a special Native ombudsperson to deal exclusively with Native Inmates; the reaffirmation that all inmates do not lose, as part of their punishment, their claim or right to the benefits and responsibilities of the "Rule of Law" or the concept of justice; that all non-violent offenders be immediately released into the community at large, by placing them in half-way houses.

Finally, Rev. Richard A. Peedle recommended that all future conferences on this subject should invite judges to address the delegates and to become involved in the discussions.

The opening Keynote Address was delivered by the Honourable Jean-Jacques Blais, the Solicitor General of Canada.

Mr. Blais stressed the need to reduce prison populations while maintaining protection of society. He went on to observe that between 1960 and 1972 the annual number of convictions for indictable offences rose in Canada to 46,000 from 35,000, while at the same time sentences of incarceration dropped to 15,800 (about 35%) from 70,000 (or 50%).

The Solicitor General stated a set of principles he believes should guide federal corrections services in the future:

1. Offenders are ultimately responsible for their own behaviour, and thus for making positive changes in their own behavioural patterns.
2. Corrections must ensure protection of public, staff, and inmates alike by assigning inmates appropriate security status.
3. Deprivation of liberty resulting from sentence to imprisonment constitutes the punishment. Thus an inmate retains all the rights and responsibilities of anyone else, except those taken away by statute or the necessary consequence of incarceration.
4. Every effort should be made to strengthen family and community ties outside the institutions, and to lessen those aspects of imprisonment which tended towards physical or mental deterioration of inmates.
5. Corrections should try to bring about "positive change" in offenders through opportunities and incentives as well as fairness in applying rules and regulations.

The closing keynote Speaker was Mr. Ramsay Clark, former Attorney-General, United States of America.

The theme of his talk was that laws are political in nature, that those in power make laws, that social and economic inequalities contribute to crime.

He cited some facts such as — in the United States between 1931 and the present, 455 people (405 were black) have been executed for the crime of rape; 60% of all people executed for any crime were black; not even 1% of all young men who have served time in prison have been of the middle and upper class; of the \$30-\$40 billion in crime against corporations in the United States each year, \$5 billion is from employee pilfering.

"Society has an enormous bias, partially over social values", Clark stated. "How did we come to use a system so overwhelmingly against the poor? And what else can it mean but racial hatred?"

He said in Canada this would apply to native Indians; in Australia to the Aborigines; in South Africa to the black; in Sweden to the Laplanders; and so forth.

He pointed out that U.S. prisons are full of juveniles, 90% of whom are high school dropouts.

He felt there is an epidemic of child abuse in the United States. A survey done at a Texas institution shows that most inmates in maximum security institutions had been victims of child abuse. While he said he did not know if this was true in all cases, he felt that it could affect the way people feel about others.

"I believe children born to loving people and raised in a healthy, caring environment where justice matters, don't hurt others", he said.

Today he noted, there is a movement toward a massive prison construction program, towards bigger and better jails in America.

"But the concept is false," he claimed.

"Segregation won't work...experience is the big teacher, and who knows the truth but those who live in prisons," he explained.

He said he felt his country would be better off if it incarcerated only 5% of its criminals...those who were dangerous to others. He said this would take more time and skills, but felt the benefits would be enormous.

Asked if he would go back to being Attorney-General of the United States if he could, Clark replied negatively.

"I've come to believe we vastly overrate the power of authority," he said. "The idea that change can come from a mandate of authority is wrong. The main thing authority does is bring out the best in people it touches."

He explained that today, he tries to spend one-third of his time at his law practice, one-third of his time in organizations such as half-way houses, outreach groups, and the other third lecturing for volunteers who undertake to provide ex-inmates with shelter, jobs, money and friendship...all valuable commodities, he maintains. He was asked how prison workers and staff could help if laws were based on social and economic inequalities.

"I believe laws are inherently political in inception and reflect the feelings of those in power...but they can be applied fairly," he said. "I guess I come to you with a plea for help. Our prisons are a human disposal system," he continued. "Those who work in them have an obligation, at whatever sacrifice, to communicate. The public doesn't really know what...you do."

The incarcerated Offender Conference was attended by a total of 400 persons.

The conference was sponsored by Fraser Valley College and the Canadian Association for the Prevention of Crime.

A special vote of praise was extended to Mr. W. Zarchikoff co-ordinator of the conference and member of the faculty of Fraser Valley College, for his out-standing contribution to the success of the conference.

WHAT IS PAROLE?

The following are some questions and answers regarding parole. This brochure was released by the National Parole Board of Canada in March of 1979.

Que: What exactly is Parole?

Ans: Parole is the release of selected inmates from confinement to continue serving their sentences in the community under varying degrees of supervision. There are two types of parole: full parole and day parole.

Full parole means that an offender can live in the community, provided he respects a number of conditions on his freedom, and reports regularly to his parole officer and the police. It also means that the Board considers that person reliable enough to give him an opportunity to begin the process of reintegrating himself into society.

Some inmates are granted a modified form of parole called day parole to enable them to further their studies or training in the community or to undertake employment. The conditions are the same as for full parole but the control is greater because the inmate returns to an institution or half-way house periodically, often every evening.

Que: What risk does parole pose to the public?

Ans: Members of the Parole Board take great care in selecting inmates for parole. Before making a decision, members analyze in depth reports on the past behaviour of the inmate, his present orientation and the concrete plans he has made for the future. They vote on each case, after conducting a hearing with the inmate.

The essential question for the Board Members is: Will the community be best protected in the long run if this particular inmate serves a part of his sentence under supervision in the community?

One should not forget that over 90% of the offenders will return to the community one day, even without intervention from the Board. While it is impossible to avoid mistakes, the relative rates of success and failure resulting from various methods of release suggest that the chances for an offender's rehabilitation increase appreciably when the transition from incarceration to freedom is made on a gradual and controlled basis.

Que: Isn't parole an interference with the jurisdiction of the courts?

Ans: No. Essentially the court sets the time to be served. Parole affects only the way of serving the sentence; it does not shorten or lengthen the sentence imposed by the court. Once the sentence is handed down it is up to the corrections agencies to determine—according to strict regulations, of course—the level of control it will impose on the offender. For instance, the Penitentiary Service decides whether the inmate will go to a maximum, medium, or minimum security institution and the Parole Board, under requirements found in law, decides what portion of the sentence, if any, the offender will spend in the community under supervision.

Que: Is the Parole Board obliged to release an inmate when he is first eligible for parole?

Ans: The Parole Board is under no obligation to release any inmate at any time. The Parole Act gives the Board the absolute discretion to grant or deny parole to inmates who have served a certain portion of their sentences. If parole is granted, the Board has power to revoke it for good reason, and return the inmate to incarceration.

Que: Is parole easier to get now?

Ans: No. At one time parole was considered after an inmate had completed a third of his sentence or four years, whichever was the lesser. In 1972 that was changed to one third or seven years, whichever is the lesser. That means that inmates receiving long sentences serve a longer time before they are eligible for consideration for parole. Offenders who are serving a sentence for a second offence involving violence have to serve half of their sentence before becoming eligible for parole.

Que: Is it true that when a person is sentenced to life imprisonment, he, in fact, serves only seven years?

Ans: Definitely not! In Canadian law, life imprisonment means exactly that! While an inmate sentenced for life for a crime other than murder is eligible for parole after he has served seven years, the Board has total discretion to grant or deny parole at that point: most are denied at first application and often for years to come. Some will serve the rest of their natural lives in prison. In all cases, if parole is granted, the inmate remains on parole for the rest of his life, although after many years of crime-free conduct in the community, the severity of parole conditions may be reduced.

When an inmate serves a life sentence for first degree murder, he is not eligible for parole consideration until he has served a minimum of 25 years. An inmate convicted of second degree murder is not eligible for parole until he has served between 10 and 25 years in prison.

Any inmate sentenced to imprisonment for life whose parole eligibility is set by the court at more than 15 years, may apply to the court, after 15 years, for a reduction in the period he must wait before being eligible to be considered for parole by the Board.

Que: Who are the people on the Parole Board?

Ans: The National Parole Board is composed of 26 full-time Members appointed by the government for a definite term of office, not exceeding ten years. They come from a wide variety of backgrounds: journalism, police work, teaching, social work, native programs, psychology, the armed forces, law and criminology. The Board also has over a hundred Regional Community Board Members who are designated by the Solicitor General to review cases of murderers and those found by the courts to be habitual criminals, dangerous sexual offenders or dangerous offenders. The Community Board Members come from all walks of life, including business, trade unions, professional associations, and local governments.

Que: But isn't there one type of release which is automatic and does not involve the Parole Board?

Ans: You are referring to mandatory supervision. Indeed, there is no decision made by the Board to release the inmate, since this type of release is prescribed by law. Inmates are eligible to earn "remission", which is time off for good behaviour, industrious work, and similar considerations. The law requires the release of the inmate prior to the end of his sentence by the amount of "remission" time earned by the inmate, unless he chooses to remain in the institution. If he is released in this way from a penitentiary he is subject to supervision in the same way as if he were on parole, except for those few inmates whose penitentiary sentence began before mandatory supervision was introduced. An inmate on mandatory supervision may be returned to the institution by the Parole Board for failure to observe the conditions imposed upon him, or because he is otherwise posing a threat to society, in the same way as if he were a parolee.

Que: What does parole supervision mean?

Ans: Parole supervision is the means of providing control, assistance and support for parolees. (It also applies to persons on mandatory supervision.) Its objectives are two-fold: protection of the community against a return to criminal activity by the offender and a re-entegration of that offender into the community.

The frequency of contacts between the inmate and his supervisor and the intensity of control depend largely on the individual parolee, his personality, his record, the seriousness of his offence and the strength of the support that he gets in the community from different sources. The supervisor may help the inmate find accommodation and employment and also provide him with support in coping with his family, his employer and in developing better social relationships.

The supervisor will want to know the whereabouts of the parolee at all times. He will request that the parolee report regularly to him and also to the police. The supervisor will use whatever level of supervision he feels necessary to satisfy himself that the parolee is not returning to criminal activity.

In sum, supervision is a way of helping an offender readjust to living in the community as a law-abiding citizen and at the same time is a way of protecting the community against possible criminal activity.

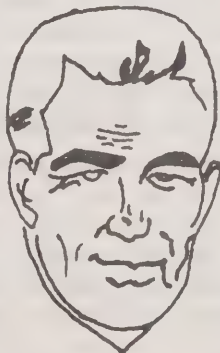
Que: How successful is parole?

Ans: Of all the inmates whose parole ended during 1977, 76% successfully completed their sentence in the community, 11% violated their conditions of release and were returned to prison without commission of new crimes, and 13% saw their parole revoked or terminated because of the commission of a new crime.

Of those whose day parole ended during 1977, only 3% were returned to prison for offences.

Of those inmates whose mandatory supervision ended during 1977, 55% (1,434) ended their mandatory supervision successfully, 23% (622) violated their release conditions and were returned to prison, and 24% (631) had their mandatory supervision revoked because they committed a new offence. The rate of failure for inmates under mandatory supervision is relatively higher than for inmates on parole, presumably because these inmates have been considered "bad risks" by the Board and have been denied parole earlier.

PREVENT CRIME



Hire a Parolee

INTERVIEW WITH THE DIRECTOR

On June 14, 1979, Tarpaper Magazine had an interview with the Director of Matsqui Institution - Mr. D.S. Dhillon. Mr. Dhillon was very responsive to the questions asked him, and was also a very easy and comfortable person to communicate with. The following is the interview which Tarpaper Magazine had with Mr. Dhillon.

Que: Now that you have had the time to familiarize yourself with Matsqui Institution, what is your opinion of the institution?

Ans: I started my position as the Director of Matsqui Institution on May 1, 1979. My feelings are very positive in regards to the institution and I am very impressed with the institution as a whole.

Que: Do you anticipate any changes within this institution in the near future? If so, what?

Ans: There is presently a different profile of inmates in Matsqui since the phasing out of the B.C. Penitentiary, and there have been a few more incidents however, but this will not affect the present stature of the institution. We have suffered a cut-back on staff and there could be further recessions, but we will maintain the programs that we have now. Also, as far as I am concerned, Matsqui Institution is a medium security institution and will operate as such. The media has stressed that it is maximum, but, I stress the point that it is not. I have written to Regional regarding this matter to notify the Parole Board that Matsqui is in all intentions and purposes a medium and will remain as such.

Que: There are rumors that security does not want any Open Houses, and that they are looking for an excuse to close them down. What are your views on this?

Ans: Security has always supported the Open Houses. If they didn't, there never would have been any. Rumors are to be started, not listened to.

Que: Inmates have been having a difficult time getting any kind of Day Parole or Work Release, they are advised by the Parole Board in many cases that they require unescorted temporary absences (T.A.'s) first. The institution however is very reluctant to give unescorted T.A.'s. What is expected of an inmate who is put into this position? Does he have to transfer to another institution? To transfer to a lower security institution is quite difficult, is this all just catch 22?

Ans: A new program has recently been started, this program we call Case Management Model. This integrates more input by the Parole Board and Penitentiary Services to start working on a man's release from day one. Rather than send people to the B.C. Penitentiary for classification as before, they are now being classified at Oakalla and sent to various institutions. This method of assessment we find to be more effective as well as cheaper, and also the first timer is not subjected to the environment of the B.C.P. Due to the cut-back of staff and no overtime, it is very difficult to send people on escorted T.A.'s. Before giving unescorted T.A.'s we would like to see a man go out on escorted passes first. This of course is a catch 22 situation, but hopefully we are slowly breaking through this type of situation. If the Parole Board could get involved from the beginning of a man's sentence, it would make programs much easier to plan.

Que: How, and by whom is a man classified? Most institutions rely strongly on police reports. Police reports carry a lot of allegations, but is not really proof of a person's character. Do you feel that this is a fair way to classify a man?

Ans: We naturally rely on police reports. We do have to listen to what they have to say about an individual of course, but it has little effect on the classification of a man. We try to gather all the information we can from all directions regarding an individual and along with common sense and experience gained over the years, we try to come to some type of conclusion about the individual.

Que: Do you feel that there should be more programs available to the inmates?

Ans: I would like to see more programs here, but due to the cut-back of staff and the shortage of money, it is very difficult to do. However, if an inmate or inmates comes to me with a fisible plan for a program and shows that they are responsible I will give them a chance to put it into effect. As I stated earlier, we will do our best to maintain the programs we have now. However, if one program proves to be a failure, we will phase it out and start another. This is only fair to the taxpayer. I find it senseless to put what little money allotted us into something that doesn't work when we could start something else that would be more beneficial to all. Even though there has been a cut-back, I still feel that we have sufficient staff to maintain the programs we have. And if at all possible, I would like to increase the programs but at the same time, I would like to see more input by the inmates themselves for different programs.

Que: What are your views on the L.U. Concept here at Matsqui?

Ans: This is a difficult question. The Living Unit Concept is an excellent one. For it to work, there must be good communication, and, as you know, good communication is like a two way street. Both staff and inmates have very clear roles to play in this regard. All the L.U.s have to go through a 3 week training course along with a week security induction training. I agree that we do need more training, however the dollar shortage does hamper what we would like to do. Each L.U. is appraised every year through the supervisors and by this method, we try to find out the weak areas. It would make things a lot easier for everyone, and a lot better if there was more cooperation from both sides. We have all the resourses here to train ourselves and we are slowly learning, and I feel that through it all, we are starting off on the right foot.

Que: How do you feel towards conjugal visits?

Ans: I can't really comment on this topic. As you know, there are many advantages as well as disadvantages. I feel that prison is not a very conducive atmosphere for man-woman sexual relationship. It is a very negative way to satisfy one's sexual needs. Is it really humane to lock up a man and wife for a half hour or so and then kick them out? A more dignified way would be indirectly through the T.A. programs. This way a person would appreciate the value and the need for keeping a relationship together. The topic of conjugal visits has been talked about quite extensively and there are various mixed emotions about this. But, the system is slowly changing and so are the people.

Que: A prisoner is expected to rehabilitate himself. How do you know when or if a man is rehabilitated?

Ans: We can only go by the recidivism rate. The percentage of people who do return to crime is high, approximately 60%. All we can do is try to find out where the problems lie with each individual. We do put more input into the first timer and spend a lot more time evaluating them in hopes that they don't return. All we can do is go with all the information given to us regarding an individual and together with a 6th sense and gut feeling decide whether or not a man is ready. It would be much easier and nicer if we could take the word of an inmate who says that he is ready to go into society, but then we are only human and how many will honour their word? It is a very difficult task to evaluate an individual and to say that he is ready for society. We can only go by his attitude from day one, and by all the information given to us from different people that he is in contact with.

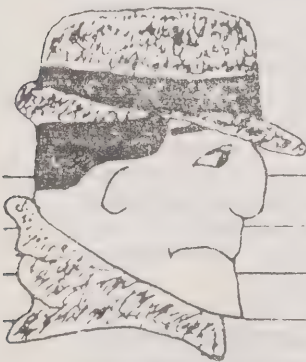
Que: Do you have any final words to conclude this interview with?

Ans: It will be a challenging task to try to make all the programs work and maintain them. I would as I said earlier, like to increase the number of programs to make life more liveable if that is possible in a prison. A new gymnasium has been approved. I am not totally satisfied with the visiting situation as it is now, and would like to see some changes. I would like to see a better location for the Academic Training, some type of complex where people won't have to run around all over the place to get to one area to the next. I would like to see the Citizen Advisory Committee become more involved, and also I would like to see 15 members instead of 10. That way, more will show up at the meetings and hopefully will become more involved. We should meet more than just the one hour a month as we are presently doing as this is not enough time. I would like to see the committee members come into the institution and talk with the people here, and would like to see less agencies such as the police, politicians, etc., and more lay people on the committee. People who know little about the prison system, people from all the walks of life. I would also like to see a sub-committee for the purpose of the living areas and for social development. I would like to see more pay for the inmates who are responsible. There is presently a program which has been started in 3 different institutions for more pay, but this is only a pilot program. I am quite disappointed to see that the Inmate Committee has only 3 members. As I stated earlier, it is a two way street and we all have to work together to get an ideal system, and we so have to be practical. I thank you for the opportunity to express my views and for this talk that we have had.

I would like to thank Mr. Dhillon for taking the time to give us his views, and the informal atmosphere which he created to make this interview that much easier for me and a special thanks to Mr. Rudy Reimer who also gave his time to sit in on the interview, and who was responsible for setting up this interview.

There were many more points which we covered during this interview, unfortunately this was all taken down in ling hand and therefore I have omitted quite a few areas. Mr. Dhillon, however did advise me that if there were any more questions which I would like to ask him, he would be more than happy to oblige me.

Crimestoppers Notebook



ROOKIES!!!!

REMEMBER: In order to gain advancement; you must have many pairs of soft shoes for sneaking up on cells, be able to smell brews, and most important, have the ability to count up to twenty-six (26).....!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Dick Trashy

Yukon woman gets 10-year sentence for murdering violent husband

by Patty Brady

Kristine Snowshoe, 23 year old native woman from the Yukon, was recently found guilty in Whitehorse of second-degree murder in the killing of her husband, William Linklater.

She faces the prospect of imprisonment in the Kingston Women's Penitentiary with no chance of parole for at least ten years. She will be separated from her two-year old child because there is no provision for mothers and children to remain together while women serve their sentences. She is yet another victim of violence against women, prejudice against native people and the pernicious effects of alcoholism which together weave a nightmarish reality for women in Canada's north.

Kristine Snowshoe lived in Old Crow, Yukon, a tiny Indian community (pop. 180) 500 miles north of Whitehorse. She was formerly a championship skier, a member of Canada's cross-country team. After her marriage, however, she was just another woman whose husband beat her viciously during violent drinking bouts. He put a stop to her skiing, refused to let her take a job she had been offered and, as time went on, made her life a miserable and fear-ridden existence.

On the night of August 31 she shot and killed him with a 30.-30. rifle.

Kristine's situation was not atypical. On hearing of her sentencing, many Yukon women wrote to local papers describing in vivid detail what they called "the great unmentioned crime of the Yukon"—wifebeating.

"How many of you people know what it is like to have a drunken man threaten you? Beat you up?... I know what it's like to live with a mean and cruel man who enjoys alcohol and can never control himself," wrote one woman

The wife of a Yukon cabinet minister who has since stopped drinking recounted her experiences. "He used to drink every day, every day. He would be sitting there smiling at me, and the next minute he would be beating the hell out of me. So many women here are scared to say anything about it. They blame themselves. They say they fell down the stairs, or they hit themselves on a door. Well, they're not fooling anybody. We know where they got it from."

The married life of Kristine and William was no different. When he was drinking she would wander around the village with her baby, afraid to go home but also afraid to tell the friends she visited on these rounds of the violent beatings. Often he would go off on binges, leaving her without firewood or money for groceries.

On the night of the killing, Kristine, her husband and a female friend had consumed three bottles of whisky. He had struck and kicked her many times during the evening. Finally, after Linklater took off, suspected of having stolen \$230 from the other woman there, Kristine followed him with a rifle down to the airstrip. Five shots were fired and William Linklater died in a ditch with a bullet in his head.

At the beginning of the trial in Whitehorse, 500 miles south of Old Crow, the crown counsel systematically rejected any native people or young women for jury duty. The jury, all white, three men and three older women, took only three hours to come up with a verdict of guilty. Dorothy Christensen, a court worker who has since resigned, said, "I don't see how they (the jurors) could understand how life was for her up there. I guess there are a lot of drunken Indians downtown and they think, 'Put them in jail, that's the only thing they're good for anyway'."

During the trial, Kristine, the

only witness for her defence, was unwilling to tell of her husband's violent character although she had previously described his behaviour to her lawyer. Earlier, she had been visited in prison by one of Linklater's relatives who had been drinking. He told her that she would face more punishment when she got out of jail if she "got off easy". Her husband's four brothers showed up at the trial and sat there "glowering at her," according to Nancy Njootli, a local woman.

The defence lawyer, Bruce Willis, handling his first murder case, argued for a lesser charge saying that the murder was an act "committed in the heat of passion caused by provocation." The penalty for manslaughter, the usual charge for murders involving drunkenness, is often set at two years. Second-degree murder, on the other hand, carries an automatic life sentence. This distinction was not explained to the jury.

Meanwhile, Kristine Snowshoe sits in the Whitehorse jail while lawyers decide if there are sufficient grounds for appeal. So far there don't appear to be any obvious legal ones. She has seen her child only four times since the trial.

The people of Old Crow were shocked by the events. They have appointed an alcohol worker, the local nurse, and women have started their own group in an attempt to deal with the problems of violence and alcoholism. The Yukon government has been petitioned to declare prohibition in the community but so far nothing has been done.

In the Whitehorse Star a woman summed up the feelings of many northern women this way. "It strikes me that the justice system has proved far more criminal than Kristine herself is. I look at the life situation and say, there but for fortune and environment go I. With one major difference—I would have picked up the gun and used it a damn sight quicker than she did."



PSYCHOLOGY TODAY

From psychological testimony in court to therapy for offenders, Partnerships between psychologists and the criminal-justice system are as uneasy as they are frequent. Last year, however, the American Psychological Association commissioned a task force on the role of psychology in the criminal-justice system, and it has now developed guidelines to which psychologists and the APA can turn when their business with the law becomes strained. Recently published, the guidelines call for courts to restrain their demands and for psychologists to recognize both their responsibilities and limitations. Among the 12 suggestions:

Ideally, the level of confidentiality in the criminal-justice system should be the same as the level of confidentiality between psychologists and clients not in institutions.

When possible, the task force says, psychological reports available to criminal-justice agencies should be available to the subjects of those reports.

Psychological assessments of an offender should be performed only when the psychologist has a reasonable expectation that they will serve a useful therapeutic or dispositional function.

Psychologists should not, for example, assess a prisoner's suitability for a treatment program when no treatment program exists or is planned.

Psychologists should be exceedingly cautious in offering predictions of criminal behaviour for use in imprisoning or releasing offenders.

Psychologists are unable accurately to determine or predict when a offender is dangerous or rehabilitated, the task force says flatly. Even if they could, the task force says, psychologists should resist pressure to draw conclusions on such matters as whether or not a prisoner should be released. Those decisions are legal or social value judgments about the risks society is willing to run, and are the proper business of the courts.

The inability to determine whether or not an offender is rehabilitated does not mean that treatment programs should stop. Psychologists, the task force says, should not abandon rehabilitation as the purpose of imprisonment.

JUSTICE, OR JUST US?

My name is Al Oda, and I am the editor of Tarpaper Magazine. Being editor of this magazine does not give me any more rights than anyone else to write the article which is to follow. I am writing this as a citizen of this Country - Canada.

Too many people have been ignored much too long and have been treated too unjustly. Society must be made to understand how bogus this system of ours is, and that the taxpayers' money is not being spent to curb criminal activities but is being used to encourage crime. This is done by the so called law enforcement policies and methods used by the police.

What is to follow is very brief and only skims over some of the things that are happening in our society. I hope that after reading this article, some people will be left with a doubt in their minds as to whether or not such a thing as justice does exist in this Country of ours.

First, here is a short resume as to what happens to a man when he is arrested.

When a man is arrested, he is told of his charge and taken to the city jail. There he is frisked, photographed, and finger-printed. He is allowed to make one phone call. In the morning he appears in front of a Provincial Court Judge and the charge is read to the Court. He is asked how he pleads - guilty or not guilty. If he pleads not guilty then a date is set for a preliminary hearing. The accused person's lawyer will ask for bail and if the prosecution does not object, the judge will usually set bail. If the bail is set at the accused person's Own Recognizance, all he does is sign his name to a piece of paper and he is set free until his court appearance date. If bail is set for cash or surety then the accused must find the funds or sureties to secure his release.

The other side of this is if the prosecution objects to setting bail and the judge agrees, then the accused must wait in Oakalla on remand until he goes to Court for his preliminary hearing. If after the preliminary hearing he is committed for trial, he must again wait in Oakalla until his date for trial. A man could be held in Oakalla for an indefinite length of time waiting to go to trial. This man is subjected to being a criminal and a convict before he has even been found guilty. Finally after waiting for months in Oakalla, his case goes to trial. What if this man is found to be innocent? Does he receive any compensation for spending all that time in jail for being innocent? No, he receives nothing. This is not just a rare case, it has happened many times. But for this to happen only once is once too often.

What becomes of this man? Does society help him and his family? No, because they aren't aware of anything like this happening. This man has now lost his job, his friends, what money they had saved as his lawyer had to be paid. His family has been subjected to having to live on welfare and having to live with the nightmares of what has happened to their lives. This man was held in prison and later found innocent. The law states that a man is innocent until proven guilty. Then why is a person held in prison until he appears for trial before he is given the chance to prove his innocence?

Law and Order. What is this really? I doubt if anyone can give an honest assessment of what it stands for. We bring up our children to respect the law as we were so taught. But, how can we respect something that doesn't exist?

How can anyone justify the police giving drug dealers licences to deal drugs in order that they will either introduce an under cover officer to other drug dealers or at a later date, take the stand against someone and testify to the fact that that person or persons were involved in the dealing of drugs with him. They have even gone so far as to have drugs planted in people's homes and automobiles. To get rid of cancer, do they remove the cancerous part from one person and transplant it into another? This is what our Law is doing.

The police may 'bust' someone for possession of an ounce of heroin. They then make a 'deal' with that person and advise him that the charge will be 'stayed' or it will be shelved and forgotten about. In exchange for this; that person becomes a police informant. With this 'deal', that person is now allowed to deal drugs openly and not worry about getting busted or ever going to jail. His job is usually to introduce an under cover officer to a group of people involved in some way with drugs. He may introduce the officer as a good friend, long lost brother, cousin, or whatever woeful tale they agree

on to tell everyone. The two work together as a team sometimes selling drugs to buy the confidence of others. The informant in most cases is an addict so he needs his share of heroin to keep straight. He is allowed to do this with no fear of being busted. This operation usually lasts for approximately 6 to 10 months. Then there is a mass round-up of all the people who were involved in selling the under cover officer drugs. After the round-up, the informant wanders off to where ever he chooses with his freedom and what money he has made while he had a licence.

Another method used by the police is the Conspiracy Charge. This operation starts the same way only this time the informant must take the witness stand and testify against one or more persons charged. In cases such as this the informant is also given a licence to deal drugs freely until the day the 'bust' comes down. Then he is placed in 'protective custody' usually in a hotel room somewhere with a police body guard at all times. He is paid a monthly wage of up to \$1000.00 a month until the day he takes the stand to testify. Upon his testimony, there is usually another 'deal' made that he will receive a certain amount of money up to and sometimes over \$50,000.00 for testifying. Plus he will be re-located elsewhere and be given a new identity. All this he receives for testifying. This same man dealt drugs, was busted, given a licence to deal more drugs, and later paid to testify, plus all his charges dropped. Is this justice?

The police can literally kick down the doors to your home. Come in and choke you, hit you and beat you. They also do the same to your wife or girl friend or whoever happens to be there at the time. They hand-cuff you and shout insulting remarks at you. They can smash up your furniture, rip up your carpets, tear your car apart, etc. All this under the name of the law. And if they find no drugs, too bad for you, cause there isn't a damn thing you can do about it.

Invasion of privacy; the police can wire-tap your telephone conversations. At a later daye they can use the conversations in court. And with the conversations you had, they will relate it to the purchasing or selling of drugs. Even though your conversations had nothing what-so-ever to do with drugs, they will pick out certain words or phrases and state that these were street jargon or codes used to the making of drug deals.

They can plant 'bugs' - listening devices in every room of your home and listen to any conversation you may have with anyone. Even the most intimate talks with your loved one. They can even listen to you making love to your loved one.

This is just a very small portion of incidents that have happened and still is happening. There are many more that I have not mentioned. It would take a book if one were to write about all of what really does go on.

The law is supposed to stop crime and prevent it before it happens. But, the police have used crime, even encouraged crime, to prevent crime. Where is the logic in that? Give one man a licence to deal drugs so they can bust another man? This is how our justice is being practiced in this Country today.

Maybe one day the taxpayers will see what a farce this whole justice system is, and ask for explanations needed to stop this sort of inhumane actions that take place in this Society of Democratic People. Then, we can all ask the question which now only so few ask. Where is our justice?

There are many of us who have been treated unjustly, and it saddens me to think that society is so ignorant of such facts. What is sadder still is that what I have written is the truth.

The end result is that we all suffer. Us for being caught up in the tread-mills of our every day lives and being the targets for unlawful tactics used by the police to put us behind bars. Society for being misled into believing that there is such a thing called justice. And made to believe that the taxpayers' money is being used to prevent crime not to encourage it.

I cannot, nor do I, hate society for what it has done to many of us. I can only feel sorry for society for being so naive and ignorant. In closing I ask - Is it Justice or Just Us?

Prison chaplains predict a government cutback

Some prison chaplains are predicting a 50 percent decrease in their numbers despite an apparent promise by senior federal officials to maintain present chaplaincy strength in Canadian penitentiaries while a year-long study is carried out.

One chaplain says it is evident the government plans on reducing the chaplaincy service by one-half because vacancies are not being filled.

"When a chaplain leaves now, he is not being replaced, no matter what government officials are saying," said one chaplain who is an Anglican priest.

At present, only 37 of the 47 full-time Roman Catholic and Protestant chaplaincy positions provided for by the government are filled, according to an executive of the inter-faith committee on corrections.

Last month, all chaplains received a letter from Chaplain-General John Nichols reassuring them that the present chaplaincy strength would be maintained. But already some regional directors-general of the penal system are reported to be blocking appointments to fill chaplaincy vacancies created through retirements.

Rev. Maurice Wilkinson, Anglican representative on the inter-faith committee on corrections, admits that it is possible for regional directors to block policy agreed to by the Corrections Service of Canada (CSC) and the inter-faith committee.

Part of the curtailment of chaplaincy work is due to the across-the-board cutback in federal spending. In addition, some regional supervisors of the corrections system believe there should be only one, not two chaplains, for each institution who have served both Roman Catholic and Protestant inmates.

"They compare an institution of 500 people with a parish of 500," said one. "But they fail to realize that every inmate in prison is in a crisis situation and that the chaplain has to minister to an equal number of staff as well."

More than 700 letters have been received by the solicitor-general's department, according to reports, which support the maintenance of prison chaplaincy at its full strength. Heads of churches have written to the commissioner of penitentiaries expressing their support for chaplaincy work.

In addition to the 37 Protestant and Roman Catholic chaplains serving in federal prisons, the Canadian Penitentiary Service supports a Toronto community chaplaincy service on an annual contract basis.

"For the next period of time, probably for a year, the commissioner (of penitentiaries) has stated that the chaplaincy strength will remain the same, "the chaplain-general told chaplains last month.

"I trust the above information will allay some of your concerns regarding chaplaincy in the coming months and I trust you will now be able to maintain your ministry without feeling threatened as some of you have enumerated over the past few months." He said.

These reassurances are now being called "hogwash" and "hot air" by some chaplains.

Mr. Wilkinson said the inter-faith committee discovered that the chaplaincy is not at full strength and that it will continue to negotiate for the full entitlement of 47 chaplains to be filled.

He said senior corrections officials agreed with the inter-faith committee at a meeting March 20 that the present status of chaplaincy will be maintained and vacancies will be dealt with on their merits while the task force carries out its work.

It will study the kind of chaplaincy service the correctional service requires, the role of the chaplain in the light of other services available and the organization including the type and complement of staff--necessary to carry out chaplaincy work in federal prisons.

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January

Like the soft summer rain
And the gentle evening breeze
I saw you in a passing, fleeting moment.
Now in my solitude, recollection my only companion,
I wonder on the how and why of the good things lost
Or thrown casually aside.
The loss of such a precious gift
In the midst of plastic grandeur
That passes for the Americanadian dream.

But you, you were a real dream come true
And like a fool I let you slip away
While falling into the empty pit
Of wasted memories and useless dreams.
But then not all the yesterdays were bad
So give me back just a little of yesterday,
For they say that winners laugh and losers weep
And laughter is the final refuge for a wise and learned man.

Retreat

Sing me your song of blissfulness
And let me hear your soothing voice
That takes me away from reality
And puts me in that peaceful space
Of strobe light dreams and wishing wells
Your music is my one escape
From this hate filled life
Of double talk and two way mirrors
So sing your song and let me stay
With you awhile so I can fantisize

To My Son - Curtis

I hope when you get older
You'll be able to find
The one thing which I couldn't
A lover and a friend.

Al Oda

Vancouver

As evening comes the floor show starts
With the Hookers on Georgia and Pimps on point
Hornby's Discos flashing their neon lights
And squares lining up to take a peek
At the bullshit glitter of part time actors
Plastic fuckers who think they can play
The power game and come out on top

When the Man arrives, the creeps all break
And give the narcs whoever they want
Then keep telling themselves they're okay
Think they're solid and keep on playing
One of life's games and still survive
And I guess they will until the day
They try to run their shit down on ME!!

Turn Out

So young and sweet and full of love
You chose me to be your man
Filled with only a hooker's dream
Of becoming queen one day
You tried so hard to succeed
In that scum filled scene
Of bogus strutin' so called Macks
Got out of line and you were sold
But got it together and came back home
With the only thing that could give you reprieve
Gave up your bread so that I could survive
And keep on playing life's game of games.

Hope

Sitting here all alone
Left with only memories
Of all the good things past
And as I write I wonder
If all I did was right

I hope when tomorrow comes
And I still find myself alone
I can look back at today
And say yesterday was alright

Al Oda

Circles

Searching for directions
In the setting sun
We figured west was best
And headed out through
A duststorm of yesterday's dreams.

Looking for Godot or whatever
Made sense of the nonsense
Of mundane repetition, competition,
And vague goals that turn to quicksilver
Once in hand.

Strangely enough the grass
Wasn't much greener across the street,
Was almost as ambiguous.
But peace of mind was at least
A real possibility
And the opportunity to touch
And be touched,
Was wisdom well won
And worth passing on.

For Reasons Unknown

Mobile artifacts everywhere,
Cloned
In the name of progress,
At the expense of themselves.
Wasted concrete lives,
Mired in outdated
Modes of thought and feeling;
Extinct long since.
Replaced by machines
Much better suited
For function and progress.
The belated realization
They are obsolete
Is no longer of any consequence.

Richard Wilson

Options

Darkness

followed by scattered light

In the morning,

Heralds rigid routine

As the vivid hallucination

repeats itself.

Shopping a fire sale

at the identity auction.

Humour the saving grace,

for loss of face and hope

That has an honest potential to be won.

Engage the savage fantasy

Of tilted lances thrust in vain,

proclaim your pain.

And in the doing, have done.

Richard Wilson

Pains of Time

Yesterdays freedom lost
Beyond fences of wire mesh,
Strung with barbed wire
To tear mens' flesh.
In seven by ten foot cells
Of steel and stone,
Pallid-faced men silently
Cry out their fear alone;
Each new day passes away
Exactly the same,
So it seems time stands still,
An endless pain;
Forgotten between the years
A lifer suddenly breaks,
Tears flowing down his cheeks
He babbles and shakes;
Memories become hazy shadows
Void of any meaning,
Yet the hope of escape
keeps prisoners quietly scheming.

Janet

With your memory filling my mind
I write this poem for you,
You who shared my yesterdays,
Giving freely of your inner beauty
Until our every truth was devoured
And we turned away, sadly empty
To become lost among the years.

Fred J. Morry

Aurora Borealis

cold sugar dreams
 of
 rosemeat
 rhythm
hospital
cornered

chain-link crystal
 blister blinds
 dance
 like
bludgeoned
butterflies
 in polar crime mentrual
 wind
 fencing
 with
flag and flame

 silkfire safe
 but
dusted with rules of
 northern fantasy
 &
built from the
 cargoes stars
 of
 wolf.

Untitled

I can hear our future....

like the perfumed luck
of strangers
weaving crowds we
race against their
eyes heart in heart
into mirrors and mathamatics
on the Midway midday sawdust
of a Ringling Bros. rain

....and your hair the voice
of Brazil

Ronnie Miln

The Scholar & the Boatman

Though a mass of gray was moving in across the northwest sky, the sun was still shining. As he ambled down the shrubby slope to the beachfront below, the man felt a chilly breeze coming through the trees. He turned out his collar and made his way more quickly to the little boat dock, with its slats of soggy old wood.

"Boatman! Take me across!"

"Yessir — climb aboard!"

Professor Perkins wasn't what you'd call an old man — graying, to be sure; but still sprightly, even athletic-looking. In the subcontinent's academic circles, he had long been a man to watch. There was perhaps no one who could match his fertile wit, his sweeping command and instant recall in practically every field of higher learning.

The boatman had seen better days (not that they'd really been much better, of course). His body bent from thousands of hours paddling in the sun, he was carrying on to keep his family fed and a roof over their heads. As the scholar leaped lithely onto the deck and sat himself down beneath the hooped cabin roof, the boatman bowed from the waist. He recalled an old adage: a king is respected in his own realm, but a learned man is respected all over the world.

"Boatman," the scholar opened, "the water is becoming rather choppy. While you're out here have you ever thought about the relationship between total torque and cross-current impact?"

"No, sir, I can't say that I have."

"For one thing, a more streamlined apparatus should likely yield a greater mechanical advantage. But then, I don't suppose you've studied much about physics have you?"

"None at all, sir. I just row this boat across the bay."

"Mmm. Boatman, it appears that you've wasted twenty-five percent of your life."

A little later, the scholar asked, "Boatman, have you ever looked into statistics and probability? — I'm thinking here of Gaussian or possibly Poisson distribution. With all these dark clouds coming in over us, do you have any idea what a graph of storm probably would look like?"

"No, sir, I never have studied whatever it is you're talking about. I kon't know what you mean."

"You mean you've never studied advanced mathematics? Ah, then, my dear fellow, you should know that you've surely wasted fifty percent of your life."

"You're probably right, sir. I just row this boat across the bay. By the way, there seems to be a big storm coming."

As the boat began to heave and the sky took on a dark glow, the scholar said, "Tell me, boatman, do you know anything about gauging deviations from the STP — Standard Temperature and Pressure — to forecast wind velocity in a storm center?"

"I'm sorry, sir. I really don't."

"You're a bit dense, boatman, aren't you? Are you telling me that you've never learned anything about meteorology?"

"I guess I haven't sir."

"Well, then, you've wasted a full seventy-five percent of your life! What do you have to say for yourself?"

"I just row this boat across the bay — say, hold on tight! It's really raining and blowing hard!"

Just then the boat capsized. While the boatman floated and readied himself to finish the crossing, the scholar flailed out from within his waterlogged suitcoat, as if to hook the sky with his umbrella handle.

"Boatman!"

"Sir! We'll have to swim the rest of the way!"

"But.....I can't swim!"

"Then it looks as though you've wasted a hundred percent of your life!....."

RUNNING

Now that summer is here there has been an increase in the people running (jogging) around the track. This is a good sign. Running is a very good toning exercise for the whole body. In prison this is important since all we have to lose in here is our sanity and our health (since they have taken everything else away). Our sanity we can keep by just remaining socialable; but our health requires an effort on our part to maintain.

Running is just the best all-around exercise because of the many muscles and tissues it massages and strengthens. For example, our calves tighten up; our chest expands; breathing becomes easier; our pulse goes down; we sleep better; have a better bowel movement; feel relaxed from the tensions that get built-up by being in this artificial environment, i.e. prison; and in general makes for a healthy state of mind (which also benefits our sanity).

For those who want to begin to run there are a few simple rules that should be observed. A person who has never run before should begin by taking long walks around the yard (the yard measures $\frac{1}{2}$ mile here in Matsqui); initially, a person should walk two miles in an hour, for about 3 days. After that he should increase his pace over the next 10 days to 2 miles in 40 min.; after getting to this pace on a regular level one should try to walk the mile in 15 min. (say for 4-5 days a week for 3 weeks). The final outcome of all this walking should be a walk 4 miles in an hour.

After the walking stage has been completed the running stage can be safely begun. Firstly one must not expect results of any kind for at least 8 weeks (i.e. 2 months). Since running accelerates the heart beat, checking ones pulse before and after a run is important. Most watches usually have a second timer which can recur between 6 sec. and 10 sec. intervals; if one counts the number of heart beats in 6 sec. and multiplies the number by 10 sec. the result is the total pulse rate per min. On the other hand, a more reliable method is to count until 10 sec. have elapsed and then multiply by 6, again the total will add up to a good estimate of the heart rate per min. For the average person the maximum rate is 220 beats per min, and it is recommended that one should exercise for at least 20 min. a day with 70-85% of the maximum rate, i.e., 154-187 beats per min.

After beginning to run, say a lap at a time, for 10 days, then one can begin to run a mile at a time in about a 10-15 min. Maximum conditioning can be gotten by running 3-4 miles per day about 3-5 days a week, following the routine outlined so far, for 6 months. A warmup is very important since it gets circulation in motion and helps avoid muscular and skeletal injuries.

Since it is the summer, I will make a few comments about running in hot weather. An hour before the run try to drink enough water so that you do not feel too thirsty when running. On warm and humid days try to run early in the morning or late in the evening. Try to keep a daily log of the weather conditions, time of the run, types of exercises done for warmup, etc., this way the log will eventually serve to identify the best conditions for your particular type of running (since there are no two runners with the same running patterns).

James Fixx, the author of THE COMPLETE BOOK OF RUNNING has commented on a few problems that runners have when beginning to run. He has stated that tiredness can be due to several factors: too little blood sugar, glycogen, water; or too much lactic acid (formed during exercise), heat, metabolic wastes (shit).

Another medical adviser for runners is Dr. Subotnick, author of THE RUNNING FOOT DOCTOR. He states that beginners should run at a long slow pace for as long as 40-45 mins before starting to increase the speed of the runs. He has written extensively about problems regarding fallen arches, heel spurs, inflamed shin splits, etc. He has commented that one can extend ones stride if the quadriceps are strengthened; this can be done by running up hills (like some of the guys are currently doing) or by doing foot presses on the Universal weight machine in the gym. (see the guide on the wall next to the weight machine).

Dr. G. Sheehan, the author of many books on running medicine and the editor of the SPORTS MEDICINE ENCYCLOPEDIA, has stated that runners, beginners and advanced alike, who suffer from excess soreness and pain in the joints and muscles on the day after a run, or before, are advised to take a couple of aspirins (if the person is not allergic to them) to alleviate the symptoms. He also recommends that Vaseline be used to protect the thighs from chaffing during running (especially those overweight would benefit from this advice).

In general, though, a new runner should watch his steps carefully to insure that the proper walking style or posture is maintained. Heel to toe walking is the best routine recommended for realigning the walking gait.

A few tips for those already running:

- do some situps during your regular workout since running does nothing for the stomach and abdominal muscles.
- do lean-to exercises with the heels of your feet on the ground; that is lean toward an object at a 120 degrees forward and keep the heels on the ground, this way the hamstrings will get elongated, since running tends to shorten them

As for food, institutional food being the most undesirable, the runner must eat cautiously when trying to maintain a running diet/performance. A diet consisting of milk, dairy products, fresh fruits (oranges, lemons, leafy vegetables, and pineapples) and whole grains is really ideal but unavailable here; but for the time being this column does not recommend that meat intake be cut drastically since it makes for a heavy bowel movement and may cause LOTS OF PAIN if the meat is eaten right before a run. I myself have a slow metabolism and if I eat too much at lunch, I cannot run at night; for those who would like to eat at dinner, I recommend that you try it by trial and error (i.e., that you eat and run, and if you feel pain the next day eat a little less until you can run 3 hours after your last meal).

Well that's all for now;. I suggest that you clip these pages as reference since in the coming issues I will try to get a more specialized outline of what running can do for the body and what we can do to run better.

REFERENCES: Runners World, June 1979; November 1978; The Complete Book of Running, James Fixx.



"You know what I miss on a day like this? Running down the street, the wind in my hair, the sun behind me and the cry of 'Stop, thief!' echoing in my ears."

Prisons—those little hells we choose to ignore



Garry Wills

WASHINGTON—When we look back at Hitler's wholesale slaughter of the Jews, the question is often raised: How could Germans claim they did not know about it? The answer: They did not know because they did not want to know. There is a knack for not knowing that human beings acquire with great ease.

A prison pastor in Ohio says Americans have a similar knack where prisons are concerned. We do not know what goes on in them because we do not want to know. Anyone who tries to find out can do so easily. But few care to. Prison is a place of frenzied crowding and noise, unbalancing even to those better prepared than most prisoners are to cope with the situation. It is a place of constant tension, testing and collapse. It runs on a system of homosexual rape, coercion, collusion and exploitation. It exacerbates the racism brought into it.

In prison, fear and distrust of authority are confirmed and legitimated. People brutalized by parents and peers are doubly brutalized by authority figures. They are driven deeper into a rebellion that is their last vital impulse, the last thing holding them (barely) together. We teach the unruly to see nothing good or approachable in rule itself; and, hav-

ing broken any last respect they might have had for the law, we turn them loose and expect them to be good boys and girls now that they have "learned their lesson."

I do not overstate the absurdity. I could not. If people, knowing what prisons really are and do, still want them on the present scheme and scale—well, God help them and us, they will have their way. But most people want them without knowing what they are and do. Prisons are the real Frankenstein's machine: We breed monsters from the broken fragments of humanity fed into them. And, as in the story, the monster turns on its maker—every day, on our streets, in our homes. There is a grisly kind of justice in this punishment—only we are, finally, the punished, not the punishers.

That courageous pastor in Cincinnati has refused to betray the confidence of his flock by testifying against prisoners who broke out of Lucasville State Prison and held him hostage. Jailed himself for contempt of court, he fasted 12 days. He is not allowed to minister to others in the jail. He could not conduct the burial service for a man killed after the jail break. He has entered his ninth week of imprisonment; he is 73 years old; he is the Rev. Maurice McCrackin.

He knows what we do not want to hear about. He not only knows what hells we have created. He has himself gone down into hell, looking for his brothers.

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

I would like to suggest to those legislators, criminologists, prison keepers and other practitioners in the criminal justice system who insist on applying to crime the medicine of centuries — namely ever harsher imprisonment — I pray you to take no more trouble. I would also like to suggest that their conventional wisdom of prolonged imprisonment where applied to the generality of criminal offenders not only does not work but deepens the pathology that society now suffers from crime and violence. There is of course the strong possibility that our prison people do it mostly out of a conviction that they are doing the right thing. They greet obvious failure of their treatment by insisting that the answer is to increase the medicine. But actually they are contributing to the problem, not only by applying ever more quantities of the wrong medicine but by distracting attention from more rational remedies.

I have however started with an analogy and since analogies are dangerous, let me state who I think are the victims of the infection of crime.

The primary victim is Canadian society itself. It suffers from a level of crime and violence that is astonishing for a rich and supposedly civilized country. It suffers from the psychological impact of this crime and violence, namely a fear of crime that changes how we conduct our lives, where we live, the nature of our homes and our attitude toward other human beings. Beyond the losses of life and humanistic values there are material costs in stolen and destroyed belongings, in taxation to investigate prosecute, try and imprison criminals. So the primary loss lies in the hands of the punishers. They worsen the social pathology of crime and violence and in the process, they further distort criminals so that whatever the length of incarceration, the criminal emerges more dangerous and violent than when he first entered prison.

Those who insist on applying the medicine of prolonged imprisonment do so, usually with the confident assertion that they are simply being realistic. They are, they feel. the people willing to face tough problems with an appropriately tough response. They tend to characterize anyone who questions the effectiveness of what they do as sentimentalists at best, and soft on crime at worst. These are the tough guys — the criminal justice practitioners and the politicians who persuade the public that the way to reduce crime is to impose and expand the death sentence, to build more prisons, to lengthen sentences. There are tough guys, but it is these tough guys who are soft on crime because their policies are proven failures and their response through the ages — to increase the medicine — has always produced a deepening of the illness.

No rational person denies that crime is a grave problem in our society. The public supports huge establishment to prosecute and physically contain it. They spend billions to maintain this system and plan additional billions to expand the system. And yet, as supposedly rational people they do this without ever having tested some of their basic assumptions. They have never decided why they impose imprisonment and death on those convicted of crime.

Do they do it to prevent the individual criminal from committing crimes while in prison? That, clearly, does work. It works, that is, while the person is in prison. But statistics show that the more a person is imprisoned and the longer the sentence, more crimes and worse crimes will be committed afterwards. So they should ask, logically, if they are not being deluded by obtaining temporary suspension of crime by that particular prisoner but at the price of worse crimes when that prisoner is released? And when you look at entire cohorts of prisoners, they know that statistically they are increasing the amount of violence and crime-prone persons, even though the individuals going through the imprisonment process are momentarily kept from harming them.

Deprivation of the poor and near-poor produce characteristics that appear in the data for our prison population. Average I.Q. of prisoners, insofar as I.Q. tells us anything, is about the same as the norm for all Canada. But 61% of prisoners never finished high school, and in the year before their arrest, 60% made less than \$115.00 a week.

Historically and demographically the evidence strikes me as overwhelming that the causes of violent crime lie mostly in social conditions. I say "mostly" because even in the most idyllic society I suppose there will be some individuals who, for a variety of reasons, will be assaultive and dangerous to themselves and to others and will have to be restrained. Even under the best of conditions we will have some places of involuntary incarceration. They do not need to be savage but we will need them.

But if society persists in seeing crime as mainly an individualistic disease there will be a continuation of the destructive methods we now have that spread the epidemic rather than cure it.

I think that one reason they persist in prescribing the wrong medicine is that the more rational medicine is harder to take. The real solutions to crime and violence are so profound that there are not many people in society, let alone the criminal justice system, who are willing to face them. The root causes are now so built into the contemporary fabric of society that it is easier to peddle the political snake oil of quick doses. We have structural poverty and gross economic inequities based on class and race. We have this in the midst of a rich society that values materialism to such a degree that the possession of goods is almost a religion, a religion whose rituals are impressed on every citizen from infancy by that universal communion of our time, commercial television.

We are a violent society, one of the most violent societies in the industrial world. Violence in Canada is a commercial, profit-making commodity. Our mass media, notably television, pumps out a message of sex and violence by the hour to the entire society, not out of any conspiracy to brutalize each new generation, but because it sells national goods and makes money for its corporate promoters.

We are a society that glorifies national and personal weapons. We no longer have just shouted arguments or fist fights between angry individuals but shootouts. We have elevated guns to the status of religious objects, worshipped in their possession. What exists is an ugly combination of a rich materialistic society with a semipermanent embittered underclass, a society that promotes violence in its most effective popular communication, and that worships weapons.

So we have crime that increasingly has overtones of class warfare. I do not mean that the individual robber or rapist consciously acts out of some ideological motive. It is worse than that. Many of our citizens grow up in special sections of our country with savage neighborhoods, abandoned housing, wretched schooling, and massive unemployment, all of it sustained for so long a period that a proportion of the children of this underclass, white and non-white, have a culture that is at odds with the affluent segments of their society.

This is a profound illness in our society and the cause of most of our crime. It is so profound and so difficult that few people are willing to face it or to admit that whatever we might do with the machinery or criminal justice — increase the number of police, appoint more prosecutors and judges, build more jails and prisons, and kill more prisoners — that no matter how much we do this, we will never materially affect the incidence of violence and crime in our society.

Queen Elizabeth in 16th century England tried to end vagrancy by hanging men in groups of 300 and 400 but it did not stop vagrancy because vagrancy was the product of poverty and upheaval. Henry the Eighth tried to bring civil peace to his kingdom by hanging 72,000 men and women but this did not bring civil peace. When England industrialized textiles there were riots, robberies and murders that did not stop until the society treated workers more humanely in their daily lives.

There is another irony in the delusion of toughness that permeates the issue of prisons and punishments. They continue to lengthen sentences and they continue to build more prisons. The fact is that the cost in dollars, let alone in social violence, does

not make sense, regardless of the causes of crime.

And what does all this have to do with crime and punishment? Well, they know that they will spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on each imprisoned criminal before that person ends his or her career of crime. They also know that if they do not reverse this career at the start, that the odds get progressively worse until that person reaches middle age or dies.

They also know that two factors stand out in preventing recurrence of crime in a convicted person. One is a stable personal relationship of trust that is family-like though not necessarily in blood relationship. The other is a good job.

Can this be done on the amount of money they spend per prisoner? The stable personal relationship of trust cannot be bought. But it can be supported by serious social policy. In some countries volunteers, carefully selected and oriented, assume personal responsibility for each released prisoner. In Sweden this is a substitute for professional parole officers. It is not perfect but it works better than the system here.

But for the amount spent, they could certainly buy a better future for the released prisoner. They know what the released prisoner needs. They know from the statistics on the characteristics of released prisoners that most of them had incredibly bad education in wretched schools, problems of physical or emotional health, and no marketable work skills for jobs with a future. So why not spend some of the money involved and supply the prisoner with -- intense education, good care in the free world and training programs for jobs needed in society.

But of course if they did this, if they used a portion of imprisonment money to do for the prisoner what is needed for a fulfilling decent life, they would have a serious political problem. The political problem would be that they would find themselves doing for the person convicted of serious crime what they fail to do for millions of people who never commit crimes. They would be providing for the criminal -- good housing, good health care, good education, and a good job. And a natural question would arise, undoubtedly egged on by the tough guys in politics: why should we do this for the law-breaker when we don't do it for people who abide by the law? It is a perfectly reasonable question and I think the only reasonable answer is: do it for everybody and prevent most crime at its source, and in the end produce a more humane society.

The humanistic qualities that would prevent crime cannot be relegated to a few museum-like displays in churches, institutions and small isolated groups. They have to be translated into the structure of society itself, in our media-promoted values, in our laws, social policy and programs. As a people we tolerate millions of miserably housed people in savage neighborhoods at a time when we have millions of people who need jobs building decent homes and decent neighborhoods. We let our children be educated in starved and frozen schools while we spend billions on marginal private goods. Preaching sweetness and light unrelated to social policy changes nothing.

And they continue to punish with savagery and inequality. The death sentence, for example, is irrational. It is irrational because there is no evidence that it deters murder and some evidence that it does not. It is irrational because murder is less class-correlated than most crimes because most killing is done in fits of rage. Middle class people do not often rob gas stations or steal cars but they do occasionally kill their mates, lovers and associates and they commit rape. Death row was filled with the same kind of people that fill the prisons -- the poor and the uneducated.

Savagery committed by the courts, whether in official murder or in morbid persons, confers legitimacy on savagery throughout society. If it is savagery contrary to even the most cold blooded, problem-solving strategy, then it is savagery that also stimulates irrationality in all public policy. If being soft on crime means pursuing these policies, then it is the agitators for the notion of lock-em-up-and-throw-away-the-key and for prison-building, and for the death sentence who are soft on crime.

I do not believe that the prime measure of social policy should be whether it makes a money profit for someone. But for those who put a prime value on money profit, the present policies of treating crime are irrational. For those who claim it is directed at making society a safer place, it is in contradiction to all the available evidence.

Young criminals come into prison as car thieves and go out as drug addicts and robbers. Society is safer only as the criminal goes through this expensive, morbid training.

Do they imprison in order to deter the convict and others who might be considering crime? Presumably, if longer sentences had a dilinate impact on deterring crime, it would show in the statistics. But the data are so overwhelming that at the very least we whould have doubts about deterrence. In the 1940's the average sentence imposed on federal prisoners was around 16 months. By the mid 70's the average sentence had increased to around 45 months. While they were increasing the severity of our sentences almost three times the rate of crime rose ten times.

Do they imprison out of sympathy for the victim of crime and to assure the victim that justice will be done? This undoubtedly has a real effect in discouraging private revenge and vigilantism. That is important. But how can they say that they are serious about helping victims of crime when they do so little for them? They jail and imprison many offenders who are not physical threats to society but are guilty of non-assaultive crimes. Two thirds of persons in jail are there for physically non-dangerous crimes. Two thirds of federal prisoners are incarcerated for crimes that are not physically threatening. If they are so solicitous of the victims of these offenders, and if they know that prolonged imprisonment turns convicts into more dangerous persons, why do they not keep the non-assaultive convict in the community, working at a job, and committed to paying back the victims the cost of medical and other treatment and the replacement of stolen property? Does this not make more sense for the psychological integrity of the offender, for the victim, and for society as a whole?

The data on repeated crime, or recidivism, are, like all criminal justice statistics, slippery and usually unscientific. Usually they are not carefully gathered. There is an appalling lack of follow-up studies to see what happens to offenders who have had different kinds of punishments. And the data are frequently manipulated for whatever serves a political purpose. We know that politicians in office who promised reduced crime, juggle the figures to show reduced crime. But if they are out of office and want to get in, they juggle the same figures to show rising crime and that they can be tougher.

But some studies are better than others. Andrew Hopkins in the Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency for January 1976 studied two sets of persons convicted of felonies. Because of the wide differences in sentences given offenders under the same circumstances it is possible to find two groups that match each other in the type of crime committed, age, education and other characteristics of the criminal, and whether it is a first, second or other multiple offense. When these two groups were matched, the ones who were placed on probation -- who did not go to prison -- had less repeated crime than did the ones who went to prison. The weight of evidence in all these data continue to be that imprisonment does not deter repeated crime.

If imprisonment does not deter crime then does this not cast doubt on the present assumption that the basic course of crime is solely an individual breakdown in conscience unrelated to public morality? The notion that supports the death sentence, prison-building, and longer sentences, is that while society as a whole is blameless, the individual offender has either become sick or evil in some particularized random way.

The failure to face the question of the cause of crime is basic to all the failure to reduce crime.

I do not underestimate the prevalence of crime. The streets are unsafe, though not so unsafe as people think. But they are far too dangerous for a society that calls itself civilized and for the number of citizens who are physically and psychologically damaged by violence. I do not criticize the death penalty and prison-building and lengthening sentences out of callousness for the victims of crime. It is precisely because I see crime as serious and threatening that I think there must be a change of the analysis and treatment of it.

I have talked about what I think is wrong and about the need for profound changes in society in order to reduce crime and violence. But I do not want to leave you with the idea that there is nothing that can be done right away.

We know that big prisons are graduate schools for savagery. They are expensive, unwieldy and destructive. For criminals who are physically dangerous, we need small institutions in the range of 50 to 100 inmates — cheaper to build and maintain per inmate than big prisons.

For non-assaultive law-breakers, we need community-based programs that keep the person in the outside world as much as possible, but with intense, personal help to solve problems of education, job skills, personal loneliness and isolation. This costs far less than imprisonment and does more good.

For the criminal justice system we need to eliminate from the law books victimless acts that now account for one-third of all arrests. These are acts that individuals impose on themselves voluntarily but that do not harm others. Those acts that are personally destructive and that the individual wishes to end, like alcoholism or drug addiction, should be medical and social problems, not criminal ones.

For the remainder, the criminal justice system would then be able to deliver more fair and certain justice. And instead of keeping prisoners in artificial, dehumanizing environments, we should spend some of that time and money helping him cope with a natural, humanistic environment.

There are immediate and practical decisions to make in crime and punishment. They should be adopted for rational reasons of truly protecting society but without deluding ourselves that we can ever contain the rate of crime until we attack its roots in the structure and values of a society that tolerates gross social and economic inequity.

Much thanks must go to Ben H. Bagdikian — author of the book "CAGED".



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DECLARATION OF STOCKHOLM

11 December 1977

The Stockholm Conference on the Abolition of the Death Penalty, composed of more than 200 delegates and participants from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, North and South America and the Caribbean region,

RECALLS THAT:

- The death penalty is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and violates the right to life.

CONSIDERS THAT:

- The death penalty is frequently used as an instrument of repression against opposition, racial, ethnic, religious and underprivileged groups,
- Execution is an act of violence, and violence tends to provoke violence,
- The imposition and infliction of the death penalty is brutalizing to all who are involved in the process.
- The death penalty has never been shown to have a special deterrent effect,
- The death penalty is increasingly taking the form of unexplained disappearances, extra-judicial executions and political murders,
- Execution is irrevocable and can be inflicted on the innocent.

AFFIRMS THAT:

- It is the duty of the state to protect the life of all persons within its jurisdiction without exception,
- Executions for the purposes of political coercion, whether by government agencies or others, are equally unacceptable,
- Abolition of the death penalty is imperative for the achievement of declared international standards.

DECLARES:

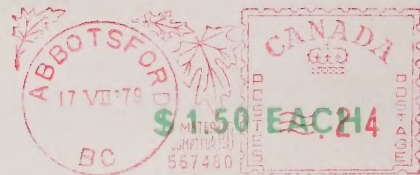
- Its total and unconditional opposition to the death penalty,
- Its condemnation of all executions, in whatever form, committed or condoned by governments,
- Its commitment to work for the universal abolition of the death penalty.

CALLS UPON:

- Non-governmental organisations, both national and international, to work collectively and individually to provide public information materials directed towards the abolition of the death penalty,
- All governments to bring about the immediate and total abolition of the death penalty,
- The United Nations unambiguously to declare that the death penalty is contrary to international law.

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